AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A solid oral heparin composition which has a melting point of 25°C or higher, consisting essentially of a continuous lipid component comprising at least one polar lipid which is a glycolipid, at least one non-polar lipid which is a glyceride, at least one of water and mono-to trivalent alcohol in an amount of up to 15% by weight of the composition, and heparin selected from the group consisting of native heparin and fractioned heparin.

2 - 14. (Canceled)

15. (currently amended) A process for the production of an oral heparin tablet which has a melting point of from 25°C and higher, comprising:

- mixing at least one polar lipid which is a glycolipid with at least one non-polar lipid which is a glyceride at a first temperature at which at least one of said polar lipid and non-polar lipid components is in a liquid state, forming a liquid continuous lipid phase,

- dissolving, in the liquid continuous lipid phase obtained, heparin selected from the group consisting of native heparin and fractionated heparin, forming a solution of heparin,

- cooling the solution of heparin in the lipid phase or portions thereof to a second temperature at which it solidifies, the second temperature being at least 25°C, wherein the cooling comprises forming tablets with aliquots of the solution or from a bulk obtained by the cooling.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The process of claim 15 , wherein said solution is cooled in bulk forming a cooled bulk product.

18. (Previously presented) The process of claim 15 , wherein said solution is fed to a nozzle and sprayed on a surface or into a cavity having a temperature below the melting point of the liquid.

19. (Previously presented) A process for the production of an oral heparin tablet in which the cooled bulk product of claim 17 is compressed into a tablet.

20 - 21. (canceled)

22. (Original) The process of claim 15, wherein the cooling is carried out by pouring an aliquot of said solution into a mould, thereby forming a tablet.

23. (canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 15, comprising coating said tablet with at least one powderous pharmaceutical excipient.

25. (Previously presented) The process of claim 24, wherein said excipient is mechanically worked into the surface of the tablet so as to form a coating.

26. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31 consisting essentially of the solid oral heparin composition, and optionally comprising an inert nucleus.

27. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31, having at least one pharmaceutical excipient coating thereon and optionally comprising an inert nucleus.

28. (canceled)

29. (Previously presented) A method of treating or preventing a condition amenable to treatment or prevention by administration of a pharmacologically effective dose of heparin, wherein the heparin is administered to a human in form of the tablet of claim 31.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said condition is a member selected from the group consisting of deep venous thrombosis, blood clots, pulmonary embolism, unstable angina, atrial fibrillation, acute myocardial infarction, coronary angioplasty, stent placement, coronary artery bypass graft, pulmonary embolism, and stroke.

31. (Previously presented) An oral heparin tablet comprising the solid oral heparin composition of claim 1 disposed in the form of a tablet.

32. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31, wherein the composition consists essentially of at least one polar lipid, at least one non-polar lipid, and said heparin.

33. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31, wherein the composition consists essentially of at least one polar lipid, at least one non-polar lipid, water up to 15% by weight, and said heparin.

34. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31 , wherein said at least one polar lipid is a membrane lipid.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31, wherein said at least one non-polar lipid is a glyceride ester of a fatty acid or is of vegetable origin.

37. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 36, wherein said at least one non-polar lipid comprises triglycerides from palmkernel oil fractions obtained by fractionation of palmkernel oil or is a C_8-C_{10} monoglyceride or C_{16}-C_{18} monoglyceride.

38. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 31, wherein the composition contains water and at least one mono-to trivalent alcohol.

39. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 38, wherein the alcohol is ethanol and optionally, a divalent to trivalent alcohol selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycol and glycerol.

40. (Previously presented) The oral heparin tablet of claim 39, wherein the amount of water is up to 5% by weight.

41. (Previously presented) The solid oral heparin composition of claim 1 in which the melting point is 30°C or higher.